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September 4, 2019

Dear ,

Over the past six decades, Lenox Terrace has built a meaningful legacy and become an important part of the Harlem Community. Certainly, credit must be awarded to The Olnick Organization whose vision was to raise a new standard for residential living. But the legacy of this community has been derived from the efforts of the hard working citizens of Harlem who have lived in this facility.

As you may know, there is an effort underway for The Olnick Organization to reinvest in and update the property. This creates a real opportunity to memorialize and celebrate the enduring legacy of Lenox Terrace. In 1990, I founded a not-for-profit called *Landmarks Harlem*, to preserve the artistic and cultural value of structures and sights in the Greater Harlem area that were being demolished during new construction in that period. In the mid 90s, I chaired a Task Force for the oversight of the African Burial Ground, which would have been destroyed if the Federal Government had its way. In 2007, the burial sight of our ancestors became the *African Burial Ground National Monument* – and named a National Landmark.

I have always wanted to document and highlight the historic contributions of our neighbors right here in the Terrace where I first resided in 1972. I felt that it was important that I contribute to the process of sustaining this legacy and therefore I have decided to organize a committee in pursuit of that goal. In conversations with The Olnick Organization, we agreed that The Lenox Legacy Committee will begin meeting shortly and hopes to complete its mission by early 2020. The activities of the committee would involve devising a recommendation on how to include a physical commemoration of that legacy within the new development as well as developing an oral history program to record and share the history of Lenox Terrace and its residents.

I invite you to join me in serving on this committee. Please consider this opportunity to take part in honoring the history of one of Harlem's most significant addresses.

Please confirm your interest in participating by emailing committee@lenoxlegacyproject.org. In the coming days, you will hear from Keith Tubbs, who will be able to answer any questions you might have and share additional information about next steps.

I look forward to working with you on this exciting initiative.

Sincerely,

Governor David A. Paterson